turn of the century, which is just round the corner; thirteen years hence. Such a fear need not be there. The coal deposit is very much...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This is the report of the specialists; not mine.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This is not the report of the specialists I will tell you.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is about coking coal.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: He talkedabout coal deposits in India. Evenin the case of the coking coal, it- will not be exhausted by the turn of the century.

AN HON. MEMBER: When will it be exhausted?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Not in your and my lifetime.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: When the world will come to an end.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: A panicky situation should not be created. We are as serious and as concerned as you are and we are tackling the problem with a sense of urgency. I can assure the hon. Member and through you, Sir, the House that I have taken a special meeting of the officers concerned of the CCIL just last week to take up a crash programme on the basis of urgency to tackle this whole problem of fire in Jharia coalfields.

DR. H. P. SHARMA: Sir, while concern has been rightly expressed about a fire which has been going on for 70 years, there is another aspect, the human aspect, to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. During the 70 years a large part of this area has come under human habitation and towns of Jharia and Dhanbad are directly located over these burning coalfields. Has the Minister taken these facts info consideration? I do not want any panicky reaction but the tragedy can be many times more than that of Bhopal. What steps is the Government considering to take before any such possible tragedy can occur there?

SHRl VASANT SATHE: That is a very important aspect which is in our mind, what to do with the habi. tation that is there above. If we can control the fires below, well and good. If for any reason those fires cannot be controlled, then the population will have to be shifted. All these aspects are being taken into account.

MR. CHAIRMAN; We have taken 45 minutes on two questions. Let us move to the next question.

Oil exploration work in Onshore and Offshore Areas

*23. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: f

SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM | AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) what are the new onshore and offshore areas or zones where exploration work for oil and natural gas has been undertaken during the cur. rent financial year and

(b) what is the estimated yield of oil and natural gas expected from these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

---

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Sudha Vijay Joshi.

Statement

(a) The new afeas/zone9 taken up for surveys and exploration during the current financial year are as under: —

SURVEYS

Place	*Basin*
Naliya-Pipal	Kutch Saurashtra
Gharaideo, Kamlabari	Upper Assam
North Bank of Brahrnputra	Upper Assam
Tirap, Patharia, Adamtila	Assam Arakan Foldbelt
Piparia-Parasia, Jabera-Bond-i, Sangrampura-Singhpur, Bajia.	Gondwana/Vindhyan

EXPLORATORY DRILLING

Place	*Basin*
Elas, Kharwada, Becharaji, Chanasraa, i South Patan	Cambay Basin
Sanadra	Kutch-Saurashtra
Jhanji, Sonari	Upper Assam Basin
Kanchanpur, Adamtila, Agartala-Dome	Assam Arakan Fold belt
Vetlapallam, Chintalapalli, Vadali	Krishna Godavari Basin
Pappaanchery, RagTShpuratn, Bhuvanagiri	Cauvery Basin
Raghunath	Bengal Basin
Surinsar, Nurpur	Himalayan Foothills & Ganga Basin

In the off shore, following new areas are taken up for exploratory drilling:

Western Offshore:

B-132, C-2, B-80, C-22, B-134 and Cochin High-1.

Eastern Offshore

GS-16, PH-11, PH-I-

Andaman Offshore

Henry Lawrence.

(b) The exact potential of oil and natural gas from these areas/zones will be known only after further exploration/drilling.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA; Sir may I request that Questions 26 and 27 may also be taken up together? They (relate to the same suplementary.

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Sir, new discoveries of oil and gas are of very strategic signi. ficance to our economy and development efforts. Hence exploration assumes considerable importance in our

oil policy. "Both on-shore and offshore efforts have to be kept up at a very high place.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there have been any slippages in the exploration programme in Himalayan region, Rajasthan and North Eastern regions, due to delayed acquisition of land rigs. If so, are any accelerated plans being drawn up to cover up this gap?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT; Sir, normal, ly the acquisition Of land and handing over the land for exploration do take time but we have not found any case of extraordinary delay. We will make efforts and talk to State Governments to get the land as soon as possible. I may assure the hon. Member that this will not be delay, ed.

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: I would also like to ask the hon. Minister, are there any plans of involving foreign agencies in exploration work by leasing certain site to them for exploration and what is the outlay earmarked for exploration purpose in the current year and also for the balance period of the Seventh Plan?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: We have identified 27 off. shore blocks where foreign companies will be involved. We have invited bids on the basis of the standard norms. Six important companies have come up and the proposals are under scratinv.

About the outlay, the total outlay for the Seventh Plan is Rs. 8752 crores for ONGC and for Oil India Rs. 950 crores.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : सरकार द्वारा कितने रुपये का खर्चा तटीय और अपतटीय कुओं के निर्माण में हुआ है ? इन खोदे हुए कुओं से कितना तेल पैदा हुआ है ।

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त: अगर पूरे तेल उद्योग की बात है तो माननीय सदस्य को इस बारे में पूरा लिख कर भेजना पड़ेगा । लेकिन मैं यह बता सकता हूं कि छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में हम लोगों ने करीब 93.4 मीलियन मीट्रिक टन आयल का प्रोडक्शन प्लान किया था और 102.7 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन प्रोडक्शन हुआ है । कुल खर्चा जो हमारे प्लान-आउट-ले का था वह 5 हजार 115 करोड़ छठी प्लान में था । सातवीं प्लान को में बता चुका हूं । यहां यह भी बताना ठीक होगा कि 1–4–87 से 31–10–87 तक लगभग 8–9 जगह हम को अच्छा तेल और गैस मिली ।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : कितने कुएं आर्थिक दृष्टि से लाभप्रद पाये गये हैं क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतायेंगे ?

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त : इस साल में जो मैंने बताया कि 1–4–87 से 31–10–87 तक त्रिपुरा में एक कुआं जिसमें गैस प्राप्त हो रही है 2 लाख 82 हजार क्यूबिक मीटर और दूसरे कावेरी बेसिन में बहुत अच्छा है इसमें से तेल मिल रहा है । 206 बैरल पर डे और 50 हजार मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर गैस मिल रही है । तीसरे वैस्टर्न ऑफशोर में 4–5 जगह से मिल रही है । इनमें से हम को 3 कुओं से तेल और गैस और बाकी से गैस मिल रही है । इस्टर्न ऑफशोर में जी एस–16 में 1025 बेरल प्रति दिन तेल मिल रहा है और 12 हजार 74 मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर गैस मिल रही है ।

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: The results obtained from the exploration work in the Krishna-Godavary basin have indicated the possibility of large scale supply of oil and gas. Will the Minister please state what steps the Government has taken to step up the exploration work here, whether tne number of rigs has been increased from 5 to the promised 12 and also what steps have been taken to utilise the gas already being produced there—whether the private firms on industries which have been promised gas have been given so far or not?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT; Actually hon. Member's supplementaries relate to the other question. Anyhow, this is a prospective area. We ane intensifying all efforts on exploration and for exploitation. Exploitation is more important. For the gas which has already been produced, we have identified five private consumers which will be able to take some gas and we are in constant touch with the Andhra Pradesh Government. We are talking to ten other parties also. We have made provision for infrastructure. That forms part of the other question. But broadly I can say that w, e are conscious of the prospects in this area and we are ensuring the laying down of infrastructure also.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: The oil and gas reserves of Cauvery basin are estimated to be around 370 million tonnes—270 million tonnes of crude oil and 148 million tonnes of oil equivalent of gas. But *so* far we have explored only 7 million tonnes. But there is a target fixed under the Seventh Five Year Plan of 60 million tonnes. So the exploration of oil in the Cauvery basin is very tardy and there is not much progress. How are you going to achieve the target fixed under the Seventh Plan?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT; The best system to explore oil is we must intensify in a particular area which is the most prospective. At present we are intensifying effort at Bhuvanagiri which is yielding very good quality of oil. We are intensifying the efforts and we will not allow any slippage on this side.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, we are spending foreign exchange worth crores of rupees for importing oil and, as such, we have to be self-sufficient in oil as early as possible. So, I would like to know, from the honourable Minister whether in the current year exploratory drilling has been started in those areas where survey was completed so that we can know whether there w, as not any delay in drilling. Secondly, I would like to know what amount has been provided in this year's budget for exploratory drilling and how much amount has been spent up to the end of October.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT; Sir, in the Seventh Plan, in the first two years of the total development drilling programme...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I would like to know whether you started drilling wherever the survey was completed. That is very important.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT; Yes, that is very important, but I have to get the information because surveys have been there throughout the country. Actually when the survey was completed and when actual drilling started, i$_s$ a very wide thing. So, I will let you know; I will inform you. The total outlay for 1987-88 is Rs. 2272 crores and we have been able to spend about Rs. 765 crores in the first six months (April-Sept. 1987).

श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला : चेयरमैन साहब, जितनी गैस निकलती है उसमें से कितनी गैस स्टोर होती है ? गैस को स्टोर करने की क्या योजना है और पर डे कितने रुपयों की गैस जलाई जाती है ? बी पार्ट मेरा है कि असम, गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र ऐसे राज्यों ने गैस के आधार पर बिजली पैदा करने के लिये क्या अपने प्रपोजल्स सेन्टर को दिये हैं ? यदि दिये हैं तो सेन्टर की इस संबंध में क्या नीति हैं ?

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त : श्रीमन्, माननीय सदस्य ने गैस को स्टोर करने क बारे में सवाल पूछा है । जहां तक गैस को स्टोर करने का सवाल है गैस स्टोर करना कठिन काम है क्योंकि हमारे देश में कोई भी गैस फील्ड ऐसा नहीं है जिसे हम समाप्त कर चुके हों । हमारे लिये गैस स्टोर करना ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है बल्कि गैस का उपयोग करना ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण है । आपकी एच० पी० जी० पाइप लाइन जो है वह बम्बई

में पैदा हुई गैस का पूरा उपयोग सुनिश्चित करेगी । इसके अलावा असम में भी हम लोग गैस पाइप लाइन के लिये वर्ल्ड बैंक से बातचीत कर रहे हैं । असम गवर्नमेंट को भी हमने कहा कि वह अपनी विद्युत परिषदों के द्वारा वहां गैस बेस्ड पावर प्लान्ट लगायें । त्रिपुरा में भी ऐसा प्रयास कर रहे हैं । कृष्णा-गोदावरी के बारे में मैंने अभी बताया । इसी तरह कावेरी के बारे में भी हम लोग बातचीत कर रहे हैं । इसके बारे में प्लानिंग कमीशन ने एक ग्रुप बनाया है और प्लानिंग कमीशन इस बात को सुनिश्चित कर रहे हैं कि कैसे अधिकतम उपयोग हो सके । चाहे वह गैस बेस्ड पावर प्लान्ट्स हों, चाहे फर्टिलाइजर प्लान्ट हो और चाहे एल॰पी॰जी॰ एक्सट्रेक्शन प्लान्ट हों चाहे पैट्रोकैमिकल कम्पलेक्स हों ।

श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला : कितनी गैस जलती है ?

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त : मेरे ख्याल में 40 फीसदी पहले जलती थी । जलाने के बारे में लोगों के मन में कुछ गलतफहमी है । दो तरह की गैस होती हैं । एक गैस वह होती है जो तेल के साथ निकलती है, क्रूड आयल के साथ निकलती है जिसको सुरक्षित नहीं कर सकते हैं उसका अगर उपयोग न किया जाय तो वह जलती रहती है । लेकिन हमारा अंदाजा यह है कि पांच-छह साल पहले जो 40 फीसदी जलती थी अब वह 20 फीसदी ही जलती है । इसका उपयोग बढ़ाकर हम इसको रिड्यूस करेंगे । दूसरी फ्री गैस जो कुओं से निकलती है तो उसका उपयोग बढ़ायेंगे और उसका ज्यादा से ज्यादा उपयोग जब कर सकेंगे तब हम इसको नहीं जलायेंगे ।

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, this statement relates to the potential of both onshore and offshore exploitation. Explorations are being conducted in the West Bengal region for several years now. Although these efforts are being made, no positive result has been achieved so far despite the fact that Soviet experts have made the comment that West Bengal isfloat-ing on oil. In this context, may I know what are the reasons for not getting any positive result in the West Bengal reglion? Is it because of shortfall , of technology or expertise on the part of the ONGC or is it because of its inefficiency?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT; Sir, Bengal is said to be floating on oil. We have entrusted this job on turnkey basis to the Soviet Union itself. Very shortly they will be coming, and they wlill be starting drilling. We ourselves started drilling wells south of Calcutta, but this has not yielded any oil or gas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Thermal power station at North kar-anpura

*24. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA;
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a project report for a large thermal power station at North Karanpura in Bihar was submitted to the CEA and the Planning Commission in 1978;

(b) whether the project has since been cleared by these two agencies; and if so, what points, if any, are still to be clarified; and

(c) by when this project is likely to be cleared and taken up for construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) A project report was received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in 1978 from the Bihar State